In one of the pictures you can see a classical painting (The Awakening Conscience by William Holman Hunt), in the other a modern one (Modern Painting 3 by Bertrand Lavier). Compare and contrast the two pictures. There are some questions to help you. (In the exam these questions are asked by the examiner when you have finished talking.)

1. What do the terms ‘classical’ and ‘modern’ mean to you?
2. What basic differences do you see between classical and modern painting? (e.g. subject matter, objects, people, colours, atmosphere etc.)
3. Which do you prefer: classical art or modern art? Why?
4. Do you think it’s easier to be a painter (or an artist) nowadays than centuries ago?
5. Are visual arts as popular as centuries ago? Why (not)?

If you can, try to use some of these expressions while talking:

- master the technique of ...
- contemporary art(ist)
- be classically trained to ...
- as regards ...
- the painting reflects ...
- the current trend is ...
- the tools the painters employ(ed)
- in an innovative manner
- specialize in something
- there is a diversity of subjects: landscape, still life, portrait
- these painters inspire the viewer to look at sth in an original way
- their works of art combine ... and ...
- offer a ... message